

## REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

In response to the Office Action dated January 21, 2004, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new Claims 18-28, which are based on allowed claims 34-34 of related U.S. Patent No. 6,345,764. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications based on canceled claims.

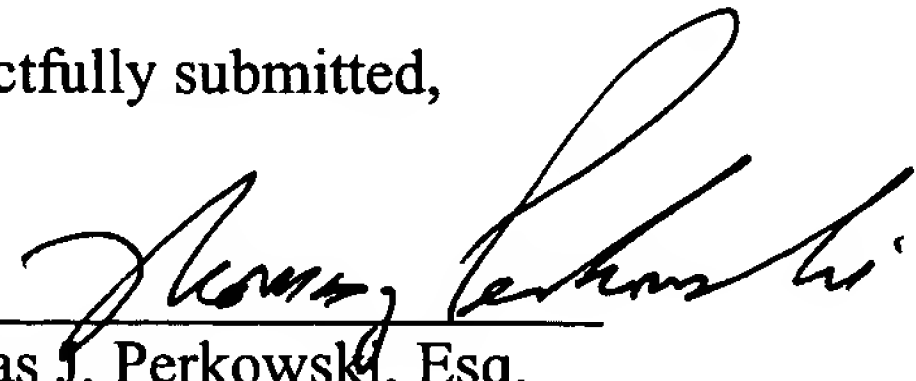
Applicant has also amended the Title to Invention to better reflect the subject matter of the present invention, as defined in new Claims 18-28.

Applicant also submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to avoid any future basis for rejection under judicially-created doctrine of double-type patenting.

In view, therefore, of the Amendment and remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by pending Claims 18-28 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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